

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00621 161352Z

61

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 SY-10 AF-10

IO-14 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 070884

O R 161308Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8786

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0621

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CPRS TC US

SUBJ: PAULA JEAN FRENDACK: KUWAIT NEWSPAPER ALLEGES USG
IMPLICATED IN HIJACK PLOT

REF: STATE 30936, ABU DHABI 0156, AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: TWO KUWAITI PAPERS HAVE USED STORY OF ARREST OF
AMCIT PAULA JEANNE FRENDACK IN ABU DHABI TO FABRICATE STORY
ALLEGING USG IMPLICATED IN PLOT TO HIJACK PLANE CARRYING ABU
DHABI MIN OF PETROLEUM. EMBASSY ISSUING STATEMENT FACTS OF
CASE AND BRANDING REPORT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN ANTI-ARAB PLOT
AS COMPLETELY FALSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. EMBASSY HAS ALSO BROUGHT
MATTER TO ATTENTION KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY. END SUMMARY

1. KUWAIT ARABIC DAILY AL-SIYASSA CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY FEB
16 HEADLINE: "AMERICA HAS BEGUN ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN GULF"
WITH SUB-HEADS "ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP ABU DHABI'S OIL MINISTER."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00621 161352Z

"ARMED AMERICAN GIRL WHO WAS TO KIDNAP MINISTER'S PLANE ON

WAY TO TRIPOLI CONFERENCE ARRESTED." SIMILAR STORY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE KUWAIT TIMES.

2. IN SHORT, STORY ALLEGES PAULA JEANNE FRENDIAK, WHO WAS ARRESTED BY ABU DHABI POLICE WHEN HER LUGGAGE WAS SEARCHED, WAS PART OF AN AMERICAN TEAM WHOSE OBJECT WAS TO KIDNAP THE UAE PETROLEUM MINISTER ON HIS WAY TO TRIPOLI CONFERENCE. VARIOUS ODDS AND ENDS OF SHEER FANTASY, HALF-TRUTHS AND AN ELEMENT OF FACT ARE COMBINED TO TRY TO IMPLICATE USG IN BEING BEHIND NON-EXISTANT KIDNAP PLOT. STORY IS SIMPLY MORE FLAGRANT EXAMPLE OF FABRICATED ANTI-US STORIES OCCASIONALLY APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS. IT IS BEING REPORTED SIMPLY BECAUSE STORY MAY REACH DEPARTMENT.

3. EMBASSY KUWAIT TELEPHONE EMBASSY ABU DHABI, DETERMINED FACTS OF CASE AND IS ISSUING STATEMENT TO PRESS AS FOLLOWS:

4. QUOTE KUWAIT, FEB 16 -- AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN ABU DHABI FOLLOWING HER REFUSAL TO OPEN HER LUGGAGE FOR INSPECTION AT THE ABU DHABI AIRPORT. SHE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PAULA JEANNE FRENDIAK, 27, WHO IS WANTED BY POLICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON A CHARGE OF MURDER.

5. SINCE THE CASE HAS RECEIVED PUBLICITY IN THE PRESS, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WISHES TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING FACTS CLEAR: NO OTHER AMERICANS OR PERSONS OF ANY OTHER NATIONALITY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIRPORT INCIDENT. THE "GANG" REFERRED TO IN SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS DOES NOT EXIST. MISS FRENDIAK IS BEING HELD PENDING COMPLETION OF AN INVESTIGATION BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO HAVE HER LUGGAGE SEARCHED BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, AND BECAUSE OF CERTAIN ITEMS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND IN HER LUGAGE. SHE IS NOT ACCUSED OF TRYING TO "KIDNAP" ANYONE.

6. THE CONSULAR OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI, NOT THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, TALKED TO MISS FRENDIAK AT THE AIRPORT AT THE REQUEST OF THE UAE AUTHORITIES. HE ASKED HER TO OPEN HER LUGGAGE, WHICH SHE REFUSED TO DO VOLUNTARILY. THE CONSUL DID NOT CONFER WITH MISS FRENDIAK PRIVATELY, NOR DID HE TELL THE UAE OFFICIALS THAT SHE SHOULD NOT BE SEARCHED.

7. THERE HAS BEEN CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN AMERICAN AND UAE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 00621 161352Z

OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT. STATEMENTS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS USING MISS FRENDIAK AS PART OF AN ANTI-ARAB PLOT ARE COMPLETELY FALSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE. UNQUOTE

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS BROUGHT THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY BRING PRESSURE OF LOCAL PRESS TO ISSUE SOME KIND OF A RETRACTION. EMBASSY UNABLE REACH UNDER SECRETARY RASHID FEB 16 AFTER FACTS FULLY KNOWN, BUT HAS

INFORMED HIS OFFICE DIRECTOR. WILL RAISE MATTER WITH HIM SOONEST.
MCCLELLAND

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